

New Wal-Mart store opening Wednesday

By RHONDA OAKS

Staff Writer

Wal-Mart's newly relocated store at 2215 S. First St. will be open for business Wednesday, Chip Bentley, store manager, said today.

"We are putting the finishing touches on today," Bentley said. "It is going to be great for the community, and it is a great looking store."

"Our Wal-Mart associates are excited about the relocation of this store and are eager to begin serving Lufkin area residents with an even bigger and better Wal-Mart store. We are looking forward to continuing as active members of the Lufkin

community."

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are scheduled for 9 a.m. with Wal-Mart executives and local dignitaries on hand for the opening.

The new 121,122 square-foot store will offer wider aisles and more parking and is 36,475 square feet larger than the store located on North Timberland Drive, Bentley said.

A wide variety of merchandise will be offered in 36 departments which include a vision center, one-hour photo lab and battery and oil/lube center.

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Wal-mart

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Bentley said grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for March 3 with special activities planned for that day, but the store will be open for business beginning Wednesday.

The 29-year-old chain currently operates in a 42-state area, with 229 stores operating in Texas and 1,720 open nationwide. The company is headquartered in Bentonville, Ark., and also operates 18 major distribution centers across the country. Also a division of the company are 208 Sam's Clubs and four Hypermart USA stores.

Bentley said the store will also continue to offer scholarship competition to local high school seniors

in a continued commitment to the community.

"We will visit each school in the area, and those counselors will make the information on the scholarship available to the seniors who are interested," Bentley said. "We choose three judges not affiliated with the company for the competition that is based on academics, community involvement and need. Wal-Mart does not make the decision on who will receive the scholarship, we just supply the funds."

Wal-Mart awarded over \$1.2 million of these scholarships in 1991.

Hours for the new store will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from noon until 6 p.m.

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